TOWN WARRANT



Hampshire, ss.

To one of the Constables of the Town of Amherst, in said county, Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby directed to notify the registered voters of the Town of Amherst of the **Annual Town Meeting** to be held in the Auditorium of the Amherst Regional Middle School in said Amherst at seven-thirty o'clock p.m. on **Monday, the Fourth day of May, two thousand and nine**, when the following articles will be acted upon by town meeting members:

ARTICLE 1. Reports of Boards and Committees (Select Board)

To see if the Town will hear those reports of Town officers, the Finance Committee, and any other Town boards or committees which are not available in written form.

ARTICLE 2. Transfer of Funds – Unpaid Bills (Select Board)

To see if the Town will, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 64, of the Massachusetts General Laws, appropriate and transfer a sum of money to pay unpaid bills of previous years.

ARTICLE 3. Optional Tax Exemptions (Select Board)

To see if the Town will authorize a maximum additional exemption of up to 100 percent for taxpayers qualifying for exemption under Chapter 59, Section 5, Clauses 17D, 22, 37A, or 41C of the Massachusetts General Laws.

ARTICLE 4. Authorization for Compensating Balances (Select Board)

To see if the Town will accept the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F of the Massachusetts General Laws, which authorize the Treasurer to enter into written agreements with banking institutions pursuant to which the Treasurer agrees to maintain funds on deposit in exchange for banking services.

ARTICLE 5. Atkins Corner Right of Way Issues (Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the vote taken under Article 7 of the May 7, 2007 Annual Town Meeting to authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase or eminent domain, the fee in parcels of land from the owners described below:

Part A. To acquire from Hampshire College the fee in a parcel or parcels of land and related easements, and to convey the excess right-of-way to Hampshire College, all as shown on the plans entitled "Reconstruction and related work on Route 116 (West St.- Atkins)," prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., dated February 2009, which are on file with the office of the Town Clerk.

Part B. To acquire from Atkins Fruit Bowl the fee in a parcel or parcels of land and related easements, and to convey the excess right-of-way to Atkins fruit Bowl, all as shown on the aforementioned plans,

and further, to authorize the Town to pave the new Atkins Fruit Bowl parking lot as compensation for the conveyance of said property to the Town.

Part C. To acquire from Hampshire Village I & II Community Corp., the fee in a parcel or parcels of land and related easements, and to convey the excess right-of-way to Hampshire Village Community Corp., all as shown on the aforementioned plans.

ARTICLE 6. Zoning Amendment – Taxi Services (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will amend Sections 3.340.3 and 5.013, and Article 12, of the Zoning Bylaw, by deleting the lined out language and adding the language in *bold italics*, as follows:

A. Amend Section 3.340.3 as follows:

3.340.3 *Transportation facility*

3.340.30 Railroad or bus depot or other transportation facility

R-O R-LD R-N R-VC R-G R-F B-G B-L B-VC COM OP LI **FPC** PRP SP SP SP SP SP SP SP SP **SPR** SP SP SP SP

Standards & Conditions

Excluding any office, storage, or repair use unless otherwise allowed by the regulations of the district.

3.340.31 Taxicab, limousine service and similar uses.

R-O **FPC** <u>R-LD</u> <u>R-N</u> R-VC R-G R-F B-G B-L B-VC COM OP LI PRP N N N N N **SPR** SP SPR **SPR** SP SP SP N

Standards & Conditions

The operation of a taxi or limousine (livery) service shall be considered a principal use regulated under this section of the Bylaw when any of the following conditions are met: 1) passengers are transported from or delivered to the site, or; 2) three or more vehicles are physically dispatched from or stored on-site, or; 3) any vehicle carries more than 8 passengers, or; 4) on-site activities include ongoing associated vehicle maintenance and repairs.

The operation of a taxicab or limousine service may be permitted as an accessory home occupation under the provisions of Section 5.013 when all of the following conditions are met: 1) on-site activity is limited to dispatch and storage of no more than two

vehicles, 2) no vehicle used by the service is capable of carrying more than eight passengers, 3) only occasional minor vehicle maintenance occurs on-site, and 4) no passengers visit the premises.

B. Amend the first paragraph of Section 5.013, as follows:

- 5.013 Home Occupation The Board of Appeals may authorize, by issue of a Special Permit, the use of a portion of a dwelling or building accessory thereto as the workroom of a resident artist, craftsperson, beautician, dressmaker, milliner, photographer, cabinetmaker, skate sharpener, radio repair technician, or other person engaged in a customary home occupation, *or as the office of a resident taxicab or limousine service operator (see Section 3.340.3)*, or as a place for incidental work and storage in connection with the off-premises trade by a resident builder, carpenter, electrician, painter, plumber or other artisan, or by a resident tree surgeon, landscape gardener or similar person, provided that: . . .
- C. Amend Article 12, by adding the following new definitions, the first under current Section 12.22, and the second under Section 12.34 or 12.35, as appropriate, with the remaining sections renumbered as appropriate:
- 12.22 Limousine: A livery vehicle primarily garaged or engaged for hire in the town of Amherst, which is used to carry passengers under pre-arranged contract for an agreed-upon hourly fare, or; operates as a charter, business courtesy, employee shuttle, customer shuttle, or; a motor vehicle on a regularly scheduled route without the use of a taximeter.
- 12.35: Taxicab: A vehicle for hire garaged in Amherst and used for the conveyance of persons from any point of origin within the town of Amherst to any other location for a fee, whether hourly or by a taximeter; except livery vehicles as previously defined or a vehicle operated in a manner and for the purposes stated in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 159A.

ARTICLE 7. Zoning Amendment – Municipal Parking District (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will amend the Official Zoning Map to increase the boundary of the Municipal Parking District (MPD) to include the entirety of the town center General Business (B-G) District and abutting Limited Business (B-L) districts north of Kellogg Avenue and Cowles Lane, along with the following properties in the General Residence (R-G) District:

- All of those properties north of Cowles Lane that are bounded on the west by North Prospect Street and on the north by Hallock Street
- On the north side of Kellogg Avenue, the following properties: Assessors Map 11C, Parcels 291, 292, 293, and 294
- All of the properties comprising Kendrick Park
- The northern portions of Assessors Map 11C, Parcels 265 and 322, and Map 11D, Parcel 42.

ARTICLE 8. Zoning Amendment – B-G & B-VC Lot Frontage (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will amend footnote b. of Table 3, Dimensional Regulations of the Zoning Bylaw, by deleting the lined out language and adding the language in *bold italics*, as follows:

b. Applies to Residence Uses only (Section 3.32). In the B-G and B-VC districts, the Basic Minimum Lot Area shall apply only to the first dwelling unit on the ground floor of subdividable dwellings and converted dwellings. For townhouses, apartments, buildings containing dwelling units in combination with stores or other permitted commercial uses, and other permitted multi-unit residential uses in these districts, the Basic Minimum Lot Area, and Additional Lot Area/Family, and Basic Minimum Lot Frontage requirements shall not apply.

ARTICLE 9. Mullin Rule (Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to accept, for the following boards, committees or commissions holding adjudicatory hearings in the Town, the provisions of M.G.L. c.39, §23D, which provide that a member of a board, committee, or commission holding an adjudicatory hearing shall not be disqualified from voting in the matter solely due to the member's absence from one session of such hearing, provided that certain conditions as established by said statute are met.

Boards & Committees Affected:

- Planning Board
- Conservation Commission
- Historical Commission
- Select Board.

ARTICLE 10. Rescind General Bylaws, Article IV, Housing Review Board (Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to rescind General Bylaws, Article IV, Housing Review Board, commonly known as the "Rent Control Bylaw," voted by the Town at the February 26, 1986 Special Town Meeting under Article 4, pursuant to Chapter 72 of the Acts of 1986, and later amended at the May 1, 1989 Annual Town Meeting under Article 64.

ARTICLE 11. General Bylaws of the Town of Amherst, Massachusetts – Human Rights Bylaw (Select Board)

To see if the Town will amend the HUMAN RIGHTS BYLAW

(STM – November 8, 1999 - Art. 16), by adding the language in **bold italics**, as follows:

- 1. The Town of Amherst hereby adopts a "Human Rights Policy" pursuant to which it shall be the policy of the Town that no person, public or private, shall be denied any rights guaranteed pursuant to local, state, and/or federal law on the basis of race or color, gender, physical or mental ability, religion, socio-economic status, ethnic or national origin, affectional or sexual preference, *gender identity or expression, genetic information*, lifestyle, or age.
- a. The term "gender identity", shall include a person's actual or perceived gender, as well as a person's gender identity, gender-related self-image, gender-related appearance, or gender-related expression whether or not that gender identity, gender=related self image, gender-related appearance, or gender –related expression is different from that traditionally associated with a person's sex at birth.
- b. The term "genetic information", shall mean any written, recorded individually identifiable result of a genetic test as defined by this section or explanation of such a result or family history pertaining to the presence, absence, variation, alteration, or modification of a human gene or genes. For the

purposes of this By-Law, the term genetic information shall not include information pertaining to the abuse of drugs or alcohol which is derived from tests given for the exclusive purpose of determining the abuse of drugs or alcohol.

ARTICLE 12. Petition – Special Act – Resident Aliens(Morales)

"To see if the town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file with the legislature a request for a special act entitled, An Act authorizing local voting rights for permanent resident aliens residing in Amherst, as follows:

Section 1. Notwithstanding the provision of section one of chapter fifty-one of the General Laws, or any other general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, resident aliens eighteen years of age or older who reside in Amherst may, upon application, have their names entered on a list of voters established by the town clerk for the town of Amherst and may thereafter vote in any election for local offices and local ballot questions.

Section 2. The Select Board of Amherst is authorized to formulate regulations and guidelines to implement the purpose of this act.

Section 3. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon permanent resident aliens the right to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot question."

ARTICLE 13. Petition – Gas Tax (O'Connor)

"To see if the town will vote to support by resolution, with reservations and reform requirements:

- a) Governor Deval Patrick's proposal to increase the Massachusetts state gasoline tax by not more than 19 cents per gallon; and,
- b) a proposal to increase the federal gasoline tax by an amount not greater than the amount needed to bring that tax in line with inflation since the last increase in the federal gasoline tax."

ARTICLE 14. FY 2009 Budget Amendments(Finance Committee)

- A. To see if the Town will transfer \$185,000 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account to be used as an other financing source in the General Fund for FY 2009.
- B. To see if the Town will, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44, § 53 (2), appropriate and transfer a sum of money from the Insurance Recovery Fund to the FY 2009 Operating Budget Public Safety for reimbursement of the cost of repairs to the damaged ambulance.
- C. To see if the Town will appropriate and transfer \$106,243 from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund to the Health Claims Trust Fund to account for Medicare Part D reimbursements received by the Town of Amherst for prescription drug costs incurred by the Health Claims Trust Fund for Town of Amherst, Amherst-Pelham Regional School District, and Town of Pelham members.
- D. To see if the Town will amend the budget voted under Article 12 of the 2008 Annual Town Meeting (FY 2009 Operating Budget) to transfer sums of money between General Government,

Public Safety, Public Works, Planning, Conservation, and Inspections, Community Services, and Debt Service accounts to balance the 2009 Fiscal Year.

- E. To see if the Town will amend the action taken under Article 13 of the 2008 Annual Town Meeting (Reserve Fund) and appropriate and transfer a sum of money from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund.
- F. To see if the Town will transfer \$153,975 from Overlay Surplus to be used as an other financing source in the General Fund for FY 2009.

ARTICLE 15. Accept M.G.L. Chapter 32B, Section 18A- Medicare Enrollment for Retirees (Select Board)

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 32B, § 18A that allows the Town to enroll eligible municipal retirees into Medicare without penalty.

ARTICLE 16. Retirement Assessment (Select Board)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$3,000,652 for the Hampshire County Retirement System assessment.

ARTICLE 17. Regional Lockup Assessment (Select Board)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$31,323 for the Hampshire County Regional Lockup Facility assessment.

ARTICLE 18. Community Preservation Act (Community Preservation Act Committee)

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of \$344,800, for Community Preservation Purposes recommended by the Community Preservation Committee and that the following amounts (items A - P) be appropriated or reserved from Community Preservation Funds as follows:

	Project	Total Appropriation	Source of Appropriation
	Affordable Housing		
A	Habitat for Humanity	\$30,000	\$30,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
В	Housing Reserve	\$17,200	\$17,200 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
	Total Affordable Housing	\$47,200	
	Historic Preservation		
С	West Cemetery ironwork (Cutler & Dickinson plot fencing, Tomb Door)	\$25,000	\$25,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
D	West Cemetery Town Tomb reconstruction	\$30,000	\$30,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues

Е	West Cemetery Landscape Improvement s (1730-1870 sections)	\$20,000	\$20,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
F	Kimball House Historic Preservation 575 North East street (year 3 of 5)	\$25,600	\$25,600 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
G	Archival Material Conservation & Restoration (year 4 of 5) Town Clerk - special collections Jones Library special collections	\$20,000	\$20,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
Н	Jones Library roof study/bid specs & emergency repairs (if needed)	\$15,000	\$15,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
Ι	Jones Library Special Collections climate control (HVAC) study/bid specs	\$10,000	\$10,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
J	Civil War Tablets – Phase I Conservation, Engineering & Design, Installation and Interpretation	\$65,000	\$65,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
K	North Congregational Church Slate Roof Repairs	\$7,000	\$7,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
L	Historic signs (Writer's Walk - Dickinson, Frost, Francis, etc.)	\$30,000	\$30,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
M	Historic Register District Nomination (Dickinson District expansion & new Amherst Depot District)	\$10,000	\$10,0000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
N	Historic Resource Inventory Phase II, Historic Barns/outbuildings	\$15,000	\$15,000 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
	Total Historic Preservation	\$272,600	
	Open Space		
О	Open Space Surveys and appraisals	\$23,500	\$23,500 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
	Total Open Space	\$23,500	
	Administrative		
P	To fund CPC administrative expenses.	\$1,500	\$1,500 from CPA FY10 Estimated Revenues
	Total Administrative	\$1,500	
	Total for Article # 18	\$344,800	

ARTICLE 19. Community Preservation Act – Open Space - Johnson (Community Preservation Act Committee)

A. To see if the Town will appropriate \$75,000 from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the purchase of a Conservation Restriction in South Amherst (Map 23B, Parcel 45).

B. To see if the Town will authorize 1) the Select Board to acquire by gift or negotiated purchase a Conservation Restriction in South Amherst (Map 23B, Parcel 45), to be held by the Conservation Commission in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40, § 8C, in common with The Kestrel Trust, Inc., 2) authorize the Town Manager and/or the Conservation Commission or their designee to seek and file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs or any other program governed by federal or state statute under which this Conservation Restriction acquisition may be eligible for funding, and 3) authorize the Select Board, the Town Manager, and/or the Conservation Commission to enter into any and all agreements, including, without limitation, agreements with The Kestrel Trust, and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate the acquisition of said Conservation Restriction.

ARTICLE 20. Community Preservation Act – Open Space - Olendzki (Community Preservation Act Committee)

A. To see if the Town will appropriate \$150,000 from the Community Preservation Fund annual revenues or available funds for the purchase of land for open space purposes in South Amherst (Map 20D-51).

B. To see if the Town will 1) authorize the Select Board to acquire by gift or negotiated purchase the fee interest in and to a portion of a parcel of land (Map 20D, Parcel 51), to be managed and controlled by the Amherst Conservation Commission in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40, § 8C for conservation and passive recreation purposes, and a conservation restriction on the remaining portion of said parcel, which parcel is located south of Station Road and contains a total of 25.61 acres, more or less, all as shown on a plan entitled "Station Road Conservation Land Plan," on file with the Town Clerk, 2) raise, borrow and/or appropriate from available funds an additional \$380,000 for the acquisition of said parcel of land and the conservation restriction, and to meet such appropriation with funds transferred and/or borrowed in accordance with M.G.L. c. 44B, the Community Preservation Act, 3) authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for that purpose, as authorized by M.G.L. Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority, 4) authorize the Town Manager and/or the Conservation Commission or their designee to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary under the LAND Program (M.G.L. c. 132A, §11) or any other applications for funds in any way connected with the scope of this acquisition, and 5) authorize the Select Board, the Town Manager, and/or the Conservation Commission, as they deem appropriate, to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments, including the conveyance of a perpetual conservation restriction in the portion of the parcel of land that is acquired by the Town in fee in accordance with M.G.L. c. 184 as required by Section 12(a) of M.G.L. c. 44B, as may be necessary on behalf of the Town to effectuate said purchase.

ARTICLE 21. Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Assessment Method (Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee)

To see if the Town will vote to approve following the existing Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Agreement for allocating the total amount to be contributed by each member town of the District for Fiscal Year 2010 as required by Section VI of the Regional Agreement.

ARTICLE 22. FY 2010 Operating Budget

(Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will adopt a comprehensive operating budget for the ensuing year and raise and appropriate money therefor.

ARTICLE 23. Petition – Human Service Budget

(The Coalition to Support an Amherst Human Services Budget)

"To see if the town will raise and appropriate \$66,000 to assist agencies delivering a variety of critical services to Amherst residents, distributing these monies as per the FY 2008 and 2009 allocations recommended and implemented by the Community Development Committee as follows:

Amherst Survival Center
Big Brother, Big Sister of Hampshire County/Center for Human Development
Center for New Americans
Cot Programs/Servicenet
Family Outreach of Amherst/Center for Human Development
Men's Resource Center (MOVE Program)
Not Bread Alone/Center for Human Development"

ARTICLE 24. Reserve Fund

(Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$100,000 for the Reserve Fund for FY 2010.

ARTICLE 25. Capital Program – Chapter 90

(Joint Capital Planning Committee)

To see if the Town will authorize the expenditure of \$670,000 of Chapter 90 funds for qualifying purposes and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement of these funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 26. Capital Program - Equipment

(Joint Capital Planning Committee)

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money to purchase, repair, and/or install new or replacement equipment and determine whether such appropriation shall be met by taxation, by the transfer of available funds, or otherwise and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants.

ARTICLE 27. Capital Program – Buildings & Facilities (Joint Capital Planning Committee)

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money to repair and/or improve buildings and facilities and determine whether such appropriation shall be met by taxation, by the transfer of available funds, or otherwise and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants.

ARTICLE 28. Petition – 79 South Pleasant Street (O'Connor)

"To see if the town will vote:

- a) to acquire from the Trustees of Amherst College or their successor by eminent domain, purchase, gift or otherwise the land and improvements of Parcel 248 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre, located at 79 South Pleasant Street and comprising 16,678 square feet/0.38 acres more or less, for downtown revitalization, economic development, parking, pedestrian and other municipal purposes and to fund such acquisition appropriate an amount equal to the assessed value of said land and improvements for the three years prior to its acquisition by said Trustees of Amherst College/\$1,016,800, and to determine whether to meet such appropriation by taxation, the transfer of available funds, by borrowing, or otherwise and further to authorize the application for and acceptance of any gifts, bequests, or grants from the federal government, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or otherwise and further authorize the Treasurer to borrow in anticipation of reimbursement for said grants; and,
- b) to declare as surplus and authorize for sale in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 30B the land and improvements of Parcel 248 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre, said location being 79 South Pleasant Street, subject to the following restrictions enforceable by sufficient penalties:
- 1. that said property not be sold or resold, transferred, or otherwise be tendered to any entity which could claim exemption from the payment of local property taxes;
 - 2. that the minimum sale price recover all town acquisition and resale costs;

and, further, that the town act in accordance with the preceeding declaration and authorization as immediately after acquiring said land and improvements of Parcel 248 of Map 14A of the Town Cadastre as is possible."

ARTICLE 29. Free Cash

(Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will appropriate and transfer a sum of money from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund to balance the 2010 Fiscal Year Budget.

ARTICLE 30. Stabilization Fund

(Finance Committee)

To see if the Town will appropriate and transfer a sum of money from the Stabilization Fund to balance the 2010 Fiscal Year Budget.

You are hereby directed to serve this call by posting attested copies thereof at the usual places:

Prec. 1	North Amherst Post Office	Prec. 6	Fort River School
Prec. 2	North Fire Station	Prec. 7	Crocker Farm School
Prec. 3	Marks Meadow School	Prec. 8	Munson Memorial Library
Prec. 4	Amherst Post Office	Prec. 9	Wildwood School
Prec. 5	Town Hall	Prec. 10	Campus Center, UMass

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this thirteenth day of April, 2009.

Stephanie J. O'Keeffe Alisa V. Brewer Aaron A. Hayden Diana B. Stein Select Board

April 14, 2009

Hampshire, ss.

In obedience to the within warrant, I have this day as directed posted true and attested copies thereof at the above designated places, to wit:

Thomas A. MacMahon Constable, Town of Amherst